

# In the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho

IN RE: MEMBERSHIP OF THE )  
CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

## ORDER

The Court having determined the need to appoint a statewide committee to examine ways of reducing delays for children in foster care and the Court having chosen the members of said committee;

The charge to the Committee is as follows:

A. Identify:

1. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in reunification;
2. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in termination of parental rights;
3. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in permanent placements;
4. Terms in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 which need clarification;
5. Successful approaches to child protection cases used in other states.

B. Provide:

1. Predictability, security and certainty as soon as possible, and make recommendations for reducing delays for children in foster care including reducing delays in reunification, in terminations, and in permanent placements;
2. Recommendations for shared accountability and unified standards of practice within and between the key players including the Court, Tribal Court, Dept. of Health and Welfare, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Dept. of Juvenile Corrections, and CASA;
3. Recommendations for better coordination between different courts/judges/cases involving the same family including protection order, juvenile, family law, and child protection across all Idaho counties;
4. Recommendations for unified statewide judicial approach to child protection cases;
5. Recommendations for increasing voluntary terminations including whether and how to accommodate the parents willing to terminate if allowed to maintain some contact in cases where such contact is not detrimental to child;
6. Recommendations for minimizing trauma to children after removal;
7. Recommendations regarding role of long-term guardianship/foster care.

The Court, being advised that a request has been made for adjustments to the Child Protection Committee membership;

The following changes are made to the Child Protection Committee membership:

Committee members that shall be released from the duties associated with the Committee, with our appreciation for their service are:

Honorable Anna Eckhart, Magistrate Judge, First Judicial District, Kootenai County

The following individual shall be appointed to the Committee:

Honorable Rachel Hamilton, Magistrate Judge, First Judicial District, Benewah County

After implementing this Order, the membership of the Committee is as follows:

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Hon. Andrew Ellis	Chair, Magistrate Judge, Fourth Judicial District, Ada County	December 31, 2027
Hon. Douglas Abenroth	Magistrate Judge, Fifth Judicial District, Minidoka County	December 31, 2025
Hon. Anson Call	Magistrate Judge, Sixth Judicial District, Bannock County	December 31, 2027
Hon. Rachel Hamilton	Magistrate Judge, First Judicial District, Benewah County	December 31, 2026
Hon. Jessica Lorello	Chief Judge Court of Appeals	December 31, 2026
Hon. Paige Nolta	Magistrate Judge, Second Judicial District, Lewis County	December 31, 2027
Hon. Neal Randall	Magistrate Judge, Seventh Judicial District, Butte County	December 31, 2027
Hon. Courtnie Tucker	Magistrate Judge, Third Judicial District, Canyon County	December 31, 2025
Nancy Austin, Esq.	Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Twin Falls County	December 31, 2026
Andie Blackwood	Bureau Chief, Youth Safety & Permanency, IDHW	December 31, 2025
Brigette Borup, Esq.	Deputy Public Defender, Canyon County	December 31, 2025
Jean Fisher	Administrator, Youth Safety & Permanency, IDHW	December 31, 2027
Jessalyn Hopkin	Public Defender, Bannock County	December 31, 2026
Krista Howard, Esq.	Attorney Representing Children in the Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2025
Julie Kane, Esq.	Managing Attorney, Nez Perce Tribe	December 31, 2027
Cassidy Littleton	Lived Experience Representative	December 31, 2025
Jessica Long, Esq.	Associate Clinical Professor of Law, University of Idaho	December 31, 2025
Stacy McAlevy	CASA Executive Director, Seventh Judicial District	December 31, 2027
Benita Miller	Trial Court Administrator, Third Judicial District	December 31, 2027
Lisa Nordstrom, Esq.	Guardian Ad Litem Attorney	December 31, 2025
Roger Sherman	Executive Director, Idaho Children's Trust Fund	December 31, 2025
John Spalding	Deputy Attorney General, IDHW	December 31, 2026
Steve Stephens	Prosecuting Attorney, Butte County	December 31, 2026
Tawny Welch	Lived Experience Representative	December 31, 2026
Marian Woods	Senior Director, Casey Family Programs	December 31, 2026

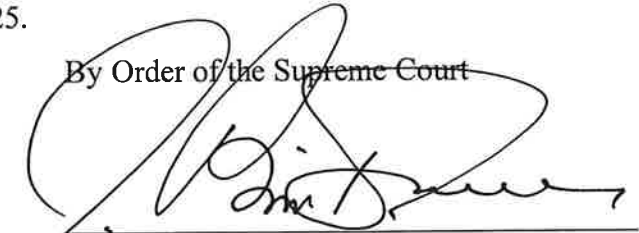
The Administrative Office of the Courts staff person and legal counsel appointed to provide on-going support and guidance to the Child Protection Committee are:

Teresa Vance, Senior Statewide Program Manager, Child Protection  
Deena Layne, Deputy Legal Counsel

This order shall be effective on the date signed.

DATED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025.

By Order of the Supreme Court



G. Richard Bevan  
Chief Justice, Idaho Supreme Court

ATTEST:

  
Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk

I, Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk of the Supreme Court/  
Court of Appeals of the State of Idaho, do hereby  
Certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the  
Order entered in the above entitled  
cause and now on record in my office. WITNESS my  
hand and the Seal of this Court 9-2-2025  
Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk

By Elena McKee Deputy